

**Week 2 Assignment**

**Overview**

The Texas Campus STaR Chart was developed around the four key domains of the Texas Long-Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020: Teaching and Learning; Educator Preparation and Development; Leadership, Administration, and Instructional Support; and Infrastructure for Technology. The STaR Chart is designed to help campuses determine their progress toward meeting both Long-Range Plan and district goals.

In the Week 1 assignment, you summarized the Long-Range Plan and the Technology Applications TEKS, and completed a self-assessment of the requisite skills that you need to implement the TEKS.

In this week’s assignment, you will look at the strengths and weaknesses of your campus as you examine and apply data from the Texas Campus STaR Chart, a technology data-gathering tool provided by the state. You will complete a three-year comparison of Texas Campus STaR Chart data from your campus with statewide summary data. Like the resources you utilized in your Analysis assignment, the STaR chart will prove useful as you become an instructional leader. You will practice using a Web 2.0 tool to reflect on your learning and also create a slide presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Presentation to introduce and present your campus STaR chart findings to the faculty.

**Rubric**

Use the following Rubric to guide your work on the Week 2 Assignment.

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| **Tasks**  **** | **Accomplished** | **Proficient** | **Progressing** | **Not Meeting Expections** |
| **Campus STaR Chart Analysis** | Student uses relevant STaR Chart information to thoroughly complete the chart provided.  Student comprehensively responds to all questions.  **(3 points)** | Student uses relevant STaR chart to fill out most of the chart provided.  Student provides a brief analysis of campus technology strengths and weaknesses.  **(2 points)** | Incorrect data pulled from STaR Chart, STaR data summary chart is not completed.  Student does not respond to all questions.  **(1 point)** | Student does not complete the chart provided.  Student does not respond to the questions.  **(0 points)** |
| **Creating and Using a Blog** | Student successfully sets up a blog and provides appropriate information related to the blog’s creation or to previously-created blog; student posts a thoughtful, at least 250-word opinion piece on one of the four areas of The Texas Long Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020. The opinion piece includes (1) a description of the area, (2) progress in the area – including local, state and national, (3) trends in the area – including local, state and national, and (4) recommendation for improvement in the area.  **(2 points)** | Student successfully sets up a blog and provides appropriate information and student posts a less than 250 word opinion piece and/or opinion piece includes less than four components in the “accomplished” category.  **(1 point)** |  | Blog not created, and/or student does not write an opinion piece and post it on blog.  **(0 points)** |
| **Create a slide presentation to share campus STaR Chart findings with faculty.** | Student successfully creates a slide presentation to share campus STaR Chart findings with the faculty and posts the presentation on their blog. The presentation includes (1) an introduction/agenda,(2) content relevant to the topic, (3) summary/conclusion (4) at least one student-created chart of the STaR chart data, (5) at least one working hyperlink, (6) navigational icons, (7) talking points only with six or less lines of text per slide, (8) up to three digital photos to personalize the campus.  **(3 points)** | Successfully creates a slide presentation to share campus STaR Chart findings with faculty and posts the presentation on their blog. The presentation includes at least six of the eight components in the “accomplished” category.  **(2 points)** | Successfully creates a slide presentation to share campus STaR Chart findings with faculty and posts the presentation on their blog. The presentation includes at least four of the eight components in the “accomplished” category.  **(1 point)** | Slide presentation not created and/or slide presentation not posted on the students’ blog and/or slide presentation created and posted on students’ blog but includes at least three of the eight components listed in the “accomplished” category.  **(0 points)** |
| **Assignment Mechanics** | Responses are relevant to course content; student uses correct APA writing mechanics; no errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.  **(2 points)** | Responses are relevant to course content; few errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation, including APA writing mechanics.  **(1 point)** |  | Responses do not reflect knowledge of course content, lack clarity and depth, and/or include multiple errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation, including APA errors.  **(0 points)** |

**Week 2 Assignment, Part 1: Campus STaR Chart Analysis**

State law mandates that the Texas Campus STaR Chart be used to evaluate a campus’ progress toward meeting the goals of the Long-Range Plan for Technology. The chart can also be used for technology planning, budgeting for resources, and evaluation of progress in local technology projects.

To complete this assignment:

* Access the Texas Campus StaR Chart by entering the following address in your web address bar: <http://starchart.esc12.net/>
* Click on “Texas Campus STaR Chart,” and read the article to review STaR Chart scoring.
* Click on “Statewide Summary Data.” Click on 2007-2008 Summary Statistics. Print out the Statewide Data Summary.
* Click “Campus Data Search.” Choose the year from the drop-down box. Then type in the name of your selected district (without “ISD”). For example, for Beaumont ISD, you would only type in Beaumont. Do not type in a campus. Click “Simple Search.” A list of campuses in your district will appear.
* Click on your selected campus, and the STaR chart will appear.
* Print out the most current three years of STaR Charts for your selected campus.
* Analyze the data, fill out the chart below, and answer the questions provided.

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| School District:  Campus: | |
| Summary Area | Key Area Totals | Key Area STaR Classifications | Trends |
| **Teaching & Learning** | 2008-09: 14  2005-06: 15  2003-04: 16 | 2008-09: 2  2005-06: 3  2003-04: 3 | We seem to be regressing rather than progressing. |
| **Educator Preparation & Development** | 2008-09: 10  2005-06: 16  2003-04: 15 | 2008-09: 2  2005-06: 3  2006-07: 3 | Again, we seem to be regressing. |
| **Leadership, Administration, & Instructional Support** | 2008-09: 16  2005-06: 13  2003-04: 15 | 2008-09: 3  2005-06: 3  2003-04: 3 | There appears to be some progress in this area. |
| **Infrastructure for Technology** | 2008-09: 19  2005-06: 15  2003-04: 16 | 2008-09: 3  2005-06: 3  2003-04: 3 | The infrastructure seems to be regressing as well. |

1. What did the STaR Chart show as your campus’ greatest strength? Do you agree with that assessment? Explain.

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| The chart shows that our strengths are primarily in Leadership and Infrastructure. I agree with the infrastructure area. I believe for the size of school we have, the infrastructure is very good. I don’t necessarily agree with the area of leadership. I don’t see a hard push from the administration to progress with the “Long Range Technology Plan”. |

1. What did the STaR Chart show as your campus’ greatest weakness? Do you agree with that assessment? Explain.

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| Teaching & Learning and Educator Preparation & Development show to be our weaknesses. I totally agree with the area of preparation and development. There is very few professional development opportunities in the technology area. I am neutral on the area of Teaching and Learning. We have made a strong push to install “active boards” in all rooms. This has made a strong advancement in the area of teaching and learning, although I don’t see them being used to their fullest. |

1. In an online learning community interaction, which STaR Chart area would you choose to introduce to the other members? What data supports your choice?

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| I would introduce the area of educator preparation and development. The regression shown in this area would be the reason for my choice. We have regressed from advanced tech to developing tech. The chart along with my personal observations support my choice. |

**Week 2 Assignment, Part 2: Creating and Using a Blog**

For the next part of this week’s assignment, you will create your own blog and post an opinion piece on one of the four areas of the Texas Long Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020. If you already have your own blog, you may publish your piece on your blog. If you don’t have your own blog, use the directions below to create one.

To complete this assignment:

* Access the video, “Blogs in Plain English” by entering the following address in your web address bar: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NN2I1pWXjXI>
* View “Blogs in Plain English” as preparation for this assignment.
* Enter the following address in your web address bar: [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com) (if you do not have a blog), or use a blog you already have set up.
* Read the information about the site.
* Click “Create a Blog.” Complete the information required to use the site, including the selection of a username and password. (If you already have a Google account, you can enter your username and password at the top of the home page.) Check the box to accept the terms of service, and click “Continue” to move to the next step.
* After creating your blog account, click “Name Blog.”
* Select a title for the blog (example: “TX Long Range Plan” or something a little more creative) and a blog address URL (example: <http://yourname.blogspot.com>). Click “Continue” to move to the next step, “Choose a Template.”
* Choose a template for your blog, then click “Continue.”
* When the “Your Blog Has Been Created” screen appears, click “Start Blogging.”
* On the screen provided, compose a 250-word opinion piece on one of the four areas of the Texas Long Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020: *Teaching and Learning; Educator Preparation and Development; Leadership, Administration and Instructional Support; or Infrastructure for Technology*. You may discuss the area as it relates to your campus or the area in general. Include:
  1. a description of the area.
  2. progress in the area (include local, state and national progress).
  3. trends in the area (include local, state and national progress).
  4. your recommendations for improvement in the area.

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| Your Blog’s Name | Your Blog’s URL |
| Jacks Lamar Blog | www.jackinsundown.blogspot.com |

* Record your blog information in the chart below. If you have a blog and did not need to create one for the assignment, enter that information. Then answer the questions on the next page.

1. What is the educational value of blogs and blogging to the 21st century learner?

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| Blogs are a great way for teachers and students to have the “anytime, anywhere” goal of connectivity. Teachers can use blogs for communication to students, but even better, students can use blogs for group projects and communication outside the limits of the classroom. Blogs could also be a great place to communicate with parents and keeping them up to date on the activities of the class. |

1. What are the concerns of blogs and blogging in education?

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| The reliability of information on blogs would be of major concern. I could also see the possibility that hijacking the blog with misinformation could also be a threat. |

1. How can you use blogging to communicate with school stakeholders?

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| The two best uses of a blog that would come to mind in my classes would be communications with parents to keep them aware of the activities of the class and group projects for students. The blog would give them a great avenue to communicate on project from almost anywhere. Students who were absent from class could still participate to a certain degree. |

**Week 2 Assignment, Part 3: Creating and posting a Slide Presentation**

As an instructional leader, you must be able to effectively share information with the faculty. You must also be able to talk confidently to those you lead. Throughout this Application Assignment, you will expand your knowledge and practice using technology tools. Presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint and Google Presentation, is used to communicate ideas or information through text, images, animations, audio and video.

In Part 3 of the Application assignment, you will create a slide presentation to introduce the Texas STaR Chart and share your campus STaR Chart findings with the faculty. After you create your slide presentation you will post your presentation to your blog.

Resources for Effective Presentations:

* <http://www.garrreynolds.com/Presentation/slides.html>
* <http://www.shkaminski.com/Classes/Handouts/powerpoint.htm#strengths>
* <http://kinesiology.boisestate.edu/kines442/tips_for_making_effective_powerp.htm>
* [www.iasted.org/conferences/formatting/Presentations-Tips.ppt](http://www.iasted.org/conferences/formatting/Presentations-Tips.ppt)
* <http://faculty.baruch.cuny.edu/blsci/main/details.asp?docid=156>

Directions:

1. Create a slide presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Presentation to introduce the Texas STaR Chart and share your campus STaR Chart findings with the faculty.
   1. Include an introduction/agenda
   2. Include content relevant to the topic
   3. Include a summary/conclusion
   4. Include at least one student-created chart of the STaR chart data
   5. Include at least one working hyperlink
   6. Use navigational icons
   7. Use talking points only with six or less lines of text
   8. Use up to three digital photos to personalize the campus
2. Upload/Embed your presentation to your Blog.

**Microsoft PowerPoint Instructions:**

To share a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation in your blog, you must first upload the presentation to a Web-based service, such as SlideShare.net, authorSTREAM.com, or Scribd.com, that will convert the file to a format that can be embedded into your blog.

**Directions for authorSTREAM:**

1. Go to [www.authorSTREAM](http://www.authorSTREAM) and click **“JOIN NOW”** from the menu at the top of the page to set up a FREE SlideShare account.
2. Select “**Upload PowerPoint”** (from menu across top of screen).
3. From the drop-down menu, select **“Single File Upload”.**
4. Click **“Browse…”** to select your saved PowerPoint file.
5. Complete the “**Title information”** and select **“Private”**
6. Next select “**Upload PowerPoint**”
7. After you receive the message your file has uploaded, select “**Your Stuff”** from the menu across the top of the screen.
8. From the drop-down menu, select **“Your Presentations”**
9. Select **“Send to Blogs & Networks”** (from menu on righthand side of screen)
10. Select **“Blogger”**
11. Enter your Blog’s **Username** and **Password** (Note: The **Blog** field is your blog’s URL. This should populate by default; if not, enter your blog’s URL.
12. Select **“Post”**

**Directions for SlideShare:**

1. Go to [www.slideshare.net](http://www.slideshare.net) and click “SIGNUP” (at the top of the page) to set up a FREE SlideShare account.
2. Click “**UPLOAD”**
3. Click **“Browse and select files”** and select your saved Powerpoint presentation.
4. After your file is uploaded, you will be asked to choose settings for your file. You have the option to share publicly or privately (viewable only to you).Once you have selected your settings, click **“Publish All”.**
5. After a while your file will be converted. The conversion may take a few minutes depending on the size of your file. Click **“here”** to view status of the file conversion.
6. When conversion is complete, click **“Update”**
7. Select **“My SlideSpace”** from the menubar at the top of the page.
8. Click **“*your presentation”***
9. Select **“Post to Blogger”** from menubar below your presentation.
10. When the Google Accounts Access Request Screen appears, click **“Grant Access”.**
11. On the next screen:
    1. Select a title for the blog post (example: Texas STaR Chart Presentation or something a bit more creative.)
    2. Then, enter the text for the post, i. e. the executive summary of your presentation.
    3. Confirm the “**Post To”** information is correct. This should be the **Name** and **URL** of your blog.

Finally, click **“Blog this!”.**

(Note: You may need to change the Zoom Level to be able to click “**Blog this”**)

**Google Presentation Instructions:**

1. After you have completed and saved your presentation, select **“Share”** from the menubar (at the top of the page). From the drop down menu, select **“Publish/embed”.**
2. On the next screen, select **“Publish document”.**
3. Once the document is published on the web on the next screen, you will need to select the presentation size (small or medium is adequate) and copy the code in the box (make sure you highlight ALL the code, then press **<CTRL C”>.**
4. Open your blog, sign in, and select **“New Post”.**
5. On the next screen:
   1. Select a title for the blog post (example: Texas STaR Chart Presentation or something a bit more creative.)
   2. Then, enter the text for the post, i. e. the executive summary of your presentation. Press **<Enter>.**
   3. Next, select the **“Edit HTML”** tab across the top of the text box.
   4. Paste the code you copy in step 3 in the text box. Press **<CTRL V>.**
   5. Select **“Preview”** to preview your post.
6. Finally, click **“Publish Post”.**